

Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawing sheet or sheets attached in connection with the above-identified application containing Figures 3-12 are being presented as a new formal drawing sheet or sheets to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheet or sheets. Figures 3, 5 and 8-12 have been amended. Appended to this amendment is an annotated copy of the previous drawing sheets which has been marked to show changes presented in the replacement sheets.

The specific changes which have been made to Figure 3 are the removal of one reference numeral 18.

The specific changes which have been made to Figure 5 are the removal of reference numerals 98.

The specific changes which have been made to Figure 8 are the removal of reference numeral 96 and 98.

The specific changes which have been made to Figure 9 are the removal of one reference numeral 16'.

The specific changes which have been made to Figure 10 are the removal of one reference numeral 16''.

The specific changes which have been made to Figure 11 are the removal of reference numerals 96 and 98.

The specific changes which have been made to Figure 12 are the removal of reference numeral 58.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

In the specification, paragraphs [0033], [0052] and [0053] have been amended.

In the drawings, Figures 3, 5 and 8-12 have been amended.

Claims 20, 21 and 24 are requested to be cancelled.

Claim 17 is currently being amended.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-17, 19 and 22-23 are now pending in this application.

The Examiner objected to the Figures on various grounds. In Figure 3, the Examiner objected to the presence of two numeral 18s. In response to this objection, Applicant has removed one of the reference numerals. In response to the Examiner noting that there was no corresponding axis for numeral 58 in Figure 12, Applicant has removed reference numeral 58 from both Figure 12 and from paragraph [0053] of the specification. In response to the Examiner noting that numerals 16', 16'', 96 and 98 were missing from the specification, Applicant has removed these numerals from Figures 5, and 8-11 where necessary.

The Examiner objected to the Abstract and paragraphs [0033] and [0052] of the specifications for various reasons. In response to these rejections, Applicant has made a number of minor clarifying amendments. In paragraph [0033], Applicant has inserted the word

“grooves” before its corresponding identifier (40). In paragraph [0052]¹, Applicant has replaced reference numeral 92 with 90. With regard to the Abstract, Applicant has replaced the term “comprising” with “including” in order to address the only language that was specifically identified by the Examiner as constituting “legal language.” Because the Examiner has not identified any other language as being objectionable, Applicant can only assume that the rest of the Abstract is acceptable. If any other language in the Abstract is objected to by the Examiner, then it is incumbent upon her to identify such language.

Lastly, the Examiner rejected claims 17, 19, 20 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,902,942 (Cornell) in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,823,969 (Traver et al.) However, the Examiner did indicate that claim 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response to these rejections and in order to place the application in condition for allowance, Applicant has amended claim 17 to include the limitations of claim 20 and allowable claim 21, thereby making claim 17 allowable over the prior art. Claims 20 and 21 have been cancelled. Because claims 19, 22 and 23 are dependent upon now allowable claim 17, Applicant submits that these claims are also allowable over the prior art.

In making the above amendments to the claims, Applicant is neither explicitly nor implicitly agreeing with the Examiner’s rejections based upon Cornell and Traver et al. Applicant fully reserves the right to revisit these claims in a new continuation application.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

¹ The Examiner asserted that there was an error in “page 52” of the application. However, since there was no page 52 in the original Application, Applicant is operating under the assumption that the Examiner intended to discuss paragraph [0052] instead.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1450. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1450. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1450.

Respectfully submitted,

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